

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 IGA-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SAM-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 /080 W

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O R 240935Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5189

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5014

NEA/ARN FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJ: JORDANIAN PRESS ON HAWK MISSILE DEBATE

REF: AMMAN 4997

1. JORDANIAN PRESS JULY 24 HAS NO MENTION OF CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE
OVER PROPOSED ARMS SALE, WITH EXCEPTION OF SHORT, FRONT-PAGE
EDITORIAL IN AR-RAYY. ENTITLED "WORRY IN THE KNESSET AND
IN THE CONGRESS," EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "ONE CAN EASILY SPOT THE
RESTLESSNESS OF THE ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER; IT IS REPRESENTED
BY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ZIONIST ELEMENTS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS
WHO ARE TRYING TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JORDANIAN ARMED
FORCES. THIS WORRY IS JUSTIFIED, SINCE JORDAN'S LOCATION DIRECT-
LY AFFECTS ZIONIST EXPANSION. JORDAN, ORIGINALLY INCLUDED IN
THE BALFOUR DECLARATION AS A PART OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME,
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REPRESENTS THE BARRIER STANDING IN THE WAY OF THE ZIONIST

TIDE. ZIONIST FORCES IN CONGRESS ARE MOVING LIKE OCTOPUS TENTACLES...TO CONFINE JORDAN. BUT JORDAN, THANKS TO THE GENIOUS OF ITS LEADERSHIP, KNOWS ABOUT THE PLANS OF ZIONISM IN TEL AVIV, LONDON, AND WASHINGTON AND KNOWS HOW TO CONFRONT THEM WITH ARAB SUPPORT. THE ZIONIST ELEMENTS... ARE OBSTRUCTING THEIR COUNTRY'S INTERESTS THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE AIR DEFENSE ARMS DEAL WITH JORDAN."

2. OTHER PRESS EDITORIALS COMMENT APPROVINGLY ON EGYPT'S DECISION TO EXTEND UNEF MANDATE. ASSUMPTION OF EDITORIALS IS THAT EGYPT HAS RECEIVED "ASSURANCES" THAT PROBLEM WILL NOT BE FROZEN AGAIN.

3. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) COMMENT: MOOD OF PUBLIC HAS SOURED NOTICEABLY SINCE PUBLICATION YESTERDAY OF INTERVIEW WITH KING (REFTEL). FACT THAT MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS HAS ALREADY REJECTED DEAL IN TOTO (ALTHOUGH VOTING HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE) ADDS TO LOCAL BITTERNESS. MAN IN THE STREET TENDS TO RESPOND TO WHAT HE CONSIDERS FAIT ACCOMPLI MORE IN OSRROW THAN IN ANGER: JORDAN WILL BE FORCED TO DEAL WITH DEVIL (I.E. SOVIET SOURCES) TO ACQUIRE ITS MINIMUM DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. SOME OBSERVERS FEEL THAT KING'S SUDDENLY MAKING DOMESTIC ISSUE OF ARMS DEBATE IS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE TO ARMY THAT HE TAKING ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO SECURE HAWKS. (NOTE: TOPIC HAS NOT ASSUMED GREAT IMPORTANCE IN KING'S RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS). HOTHOUSE GROUP OF PLAESTINIAN INTELLECTUALS AT JORDAN UNIVERSITY EXPRESSING GLEE AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE EXPOSURE OF U.S. PERfidY.

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